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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 23 February 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Adoption of a political declaration and a global programme of action [14]
- Follow-up measures for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the special session: report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session [15]
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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 14 and 15

ADOPTION OF A POLITICAL DECLARATION AND A GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

FOLLOW-UP MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION (A/S-17/11)

The PRESIDENT: This afternoon the Assembly will consider the report (A/S-17/11) of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session on agenda items 14 and 15.

I request the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session, Mr. Anatoli Oleinik of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, to introduce the report.

Mr. OLEINIK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session (interpretation from Russian): I have the honour to present the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session, which appears in documents A/S-17/11 and A/S-17/AC.1/L.3. The paragraph contained in document A/S-17/11 will be incorporated into the final text of the report.

In paragraph 12 of document A/S-17/AC.1/L.3 the Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, to which are annexed the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action, as orally revised by the Committee.

(Mr. Oleinik, Rapporteur, Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session)

I wish to draw attention to the following oral amendments to the text of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its final meeting.

The fourth line of paragraph 22 on page 12 of the English text should now read:

"be made available to all countries, in particular, developing countries, in order to assist".

In paragraph 39(a) on page 15 of the English text the word "directly", in the fourth line, should be deleted.

In paragraph 93, on page 22 of the English text, in lines 4 and 5 the words "International Narcotics Control Board and its secretariat, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control need" should be replaced by the words

"United Nations structure for drug abuse control needs".

The Secretariat will ensure that the other language versions conform to the English version of the text.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session for his introduction of the Committee's report, containing a draft resolution to which are annexed the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action, as orally revised.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the Assembly will not discuss the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

(The President)

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

There being no speakers in explanation of vote, the Assembly will now turn to the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 12 of the report (A/S-17/11) of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session.

The Global Programme of Action that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption includes a number of what are, for the Organization, new and significant mandates whose implementation will require substantial additional resources. Given their far-reaching nature, it is not possible, at this stage and within the limited time available, to identify the additional requirements with any degree of precision.

It would therefore be the intention of the Secretary-General to assess the scope of these new mandates carefully and identify the most efficient and speedy way of ensuring their implementation and the related resources that would be required in time for their incorporation in the United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control.

The Plan, which is aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies, will, as required by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/141, be discussed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its forthcoming session in May and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council. The Plan, as required by the same resolution, will contain a realistic cost estimate for its implementation.

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(The President)

Based on the outcome of the review by the Economic and Social Council, the additional resources required for the implementation of the Plan 1990-1991 would be subject to the criteria for the use of the Contingency Fund, in accordance with existing procedures relating to the programme budget.

For the biennium 1992-1993, provision for any additional requirements would be made in the context of the proposed budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993, also bearing in mind the expectation of the General Assembly as expressed in paragraph 7 of the Global Programme of Action that additional requirements would be reflected as a high priority in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

We shall now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution, to which are annexed the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action, as orally revised, and which is contained in paragraph 12 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution A/S-17/2).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda items 14 and 15 and of all other items on the agenda.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: We are about to conclude the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which has been devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The goal that the special session set for itself in the four-day discourse was to expand the scope and effectiveness of international co-operation in the resolute campaign to eradicate the menace of narcotic drugs from the face of the earth.

(The President)

It is a measure of the grave concern we all share over the abuse of narcotic drugs and their many-sided catastrophic consequences for the peace, security and economic well-being of human societies that the debates have been characterized on the one hand by a delightful absence of acrimony and on the other by a passionate intensity in the calls for action.

We have been honoured to hear from the Prime Ministers of Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The presence of Attorneys-General and law Ministers in many delegations also underscored the importance attached to the work of this special session. Thus many speakers have rendered various analyses of the problems and, inter alia, made interesting and original suggestions for combating the drug problem. Some delegations have not only shared with us their experiences of the drug menace, but also quite generously offered to share their expertise in law-enforcement and other measures.

(The President)

With different degrees of emphasis, delegations, while acknowledging the primary responsibilities of Member States to contain the social and economic outrage which the drug problem represents, have insisted on concerted international action under the aegis of the United Nations. In doing so, they have demanded substantial strengthening of the relevant United Nations agencies. Like most of you, I was struck by the limited resources provided for the United Nations agencies involved in this matter. The scope of the challenges posed by the drug problem obliges the United Nations to increase its financial resources above the present figure of 0.04 per cent of its annual budget.

In this connection, let me reiterate the point I made in my opening statement concerning the need for the relevant United Nations agencies to be provided with financial resources to match the challenge at hand. It would still be unrealistic to expect the United Nations agencies to perform the tasks allotted to them effectively without increasing their financial allocations.

After all, the question of controlling drug abuse is a matter of dealing with a plague of modern times. In their war against many societies, the drug cartels and their henchmen ask no quarter and give no quarter.

For our part, we need to streamline our efforts in the fight against the drug plague. To that end, I appeal to Member States which have not yet done so to give priority to hastening their legal procedures for the ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. By doing so, and faithfully implementing the provisions of that Convention and those before it, we can, I believe, achieve that essential international co-operation without which our efforts will remain unfocused.

AGENDA ITEM 2

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The PRESIDENT: We have come to the end of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly. I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

CLOSURE OF THE SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The PRESIDENT: I declare closed the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.